

Subject: Marijuana smoking in Lilyan Fierman Walkway cited Mar. 15, 2017
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Date: 03/16/2017 05:17 AM
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March 15, 2017

To Council District 15, PBID historic downtown SP, SP Chamber, parties of interest:

This afternoon between 1-3 pm while we were setting up in the Warner Grand Theatre for the upcoming 14th annual LA Harbor International Film Festival (LAHIFF) taking place March 16-19 with our wonderful volunteers from Beacon House one of the gentlemen came to me and said he had to pull his colleagues from the Lilyan Fierman Walkway area where they were affixing LAHIFF posters on the western wall of WGT (as approved by WGT manager Lee Sweet) property as we do every year because there were individuals smoking marijuana and it is against Beacon House tenets to be in vicinity of drugs or alcohol. We of course understood and the men returned to the WGT to continue other tasks.

This was alarming and I immediately telephoned CD 15 harbor office and reported to Sandra Ciarimitaro. When Mr. Sweet returned to the WGT I informed him and his suggestion was to have informed PBID security. I have met many of the security patrol, however do not have that number and will attempt to acquire that.

When I mentioned this to a local business owner the response was "it happens all the time, nobody cares, nobody does anything about it." That was equally of concern to consider that those patronizing businesses, the owners, students, audience members attending the many programs at the WGT, Grand Annex, art galleries are exposed to this nefarious sort of activity that empirically is not "medicinal use" of the drug and questionable with regard to legality and using the drug in public area.

With the recent improvements made at Lilyan Fierman Walkway and the egress promoted as being safe and more attractive it's disconcerting that it's apparently known as a place where flagrant use of marijuana occurs.

In the next few days we expect hundreds of individuals at the LAHIFF, local residents and from out of the area. to attend the various programs. Tomorrow there will nearly 700 students, teachers, principals and parents arriving for the "Read the Book, See the Movie" Culmination Program and passing by or through Lilyan Fierman Walkway. Saturday evening hundreds of students from Dana Middle School, San Pedro High School and Peninsula High School are expected as our special guests to view THE MUSIC MAN in 35 mm - a rare and wonderful opportunity to see a film as it's meant to be viewed on the big screen in a "movie palace" (we recently learned that Grauman's Chinese Theatre can no longer show 35 mm prints which distinguishes the WGT more than ever).

We only hope there will not be the aroma of marijuana while the bagpiper beckons the readers tomorrow and throughout the weekend, and that this missive is a "call to arms" of sorts for action to be taken.

Cordially,
Stephanie Mardesich

cc: Lee Sweet, WGT and Beacon House

Stephanie Mardesich, Director & Founder
LA Harbor International Film Festival (LAHIFF)
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"To create a cinematic bridge between the people of the region and the people of the world."

Note: "Save the Date" for the 14th annual LAHIFF March 16-19 at the vintage art deco Warner Grand Theatre (WGT) in historic downtown San Pedro - the Port of Los Angeles.
Tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com

See website link above for current program schedule, overview, photos, history, updates:
www.laharborfilmfest.com